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Agenda item 8

DRAFT REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE FIRST PART OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION

Rapporteur: Mr. Resi Gunarto Prasodjo (Indonesia)

Addendum

PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

In-depth evaluation of the United Nations programme on social development

1. At its 9th meeting on 19 May 1994, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of the United Nations programme on social development (E/AC.51/1994/2).

Discussion

2. A number of delegations commented on the low level of implementation of activities under the central programme assigned to the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs.

3. A number of delegations endorsed the use of questionnaires systematically to elicit the views of the programme's constituencies in the field. A number of delegations observed that the low response rates to the questionnaires made it difficult to draw firm conclusions on the basis of the survey results. One delegation suggested that a more clearly formulated questionnaire might have resulted in higher response rates.

4. A number of delegations in their discussion of the recommendations contained in the report cautioned against pre-empting the conclusions and

actions of the forthcoming Summit for Social Development. The following observations were made on the recommendations:

(a) Recommendation 1. Some delegations expressed the opinion that, in adopting a unified form for the components evaluated, greater attention should be given to assisting Governments in the design and implementation of national policies, legislation and programmes in the field of social development;

(b) Recommendation 2. A number of delegations broadly endorsed the recommendation and stated that the activities aimed at persons with disabilities should be given highest priority. A number of delegations questioned the priority assigned to disability activities and proposed that the programme should take an integrated approach, encompassing policy measures related to poverty alleviation, expanding productive employment and enhancing social integration at all levels. A number of delegations expressed the view that more attention should be devoted to the problems of countries with economies in transition. Others expressed the view that greater attention had to be given to the problem of social development of developing countries. A number of delegations expressed concern over the issue of redeployment of resources;

(c) Recommendation 3. Some delegations considered that, apart from the mandated reports to intergovernmental bodies, additional newsletters and bulletins were not necessary;

(d) Recommendation 4. A number of delegations considered that the programme orientation and structure should be reviewed in the context of the core priority areas identified in the Preparatory Committee for the Summit for Social Development and in the light of the actions of the Summit.

Conclusions and recommendations

5. Subject to the views and comments of members noted above, the Committee took note of the recommendations in the report.